In order to stop diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor (s) in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor:—

— Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

— Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commerical rates for 2nd offence.

— Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against diversion of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors diverting LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no misuse takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified and shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

**Exploration in Ganga basin**

3059. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to explore the possibility of Oil and Natural Gas in the States situated in Ganga Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) by when the exploration is likely to be started from these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL ): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) technical arm under this Ministry has conducted Geoscientific surveys in Ganga Basin. The aeromagnetic surveys carried out by DGH during last three years are as under:

| Year | Line Kilometre (LKM) | Area Covered |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 12765 | Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand |
| 2006-07 | Nil | Nil |
| 2007-08 | Nil | Nil |

Based on the results of different surveys, 6 exploration blocks were carved out and awarded in Ganga Basin under six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy held so far. Till date, about 1495 LKM of 2D seismic, 37,746 LKM Aeromagnetic survey have been carried out and 1 exploratory well has been drilled in these blocks by the Operators. Further exploration activities have been carried out as per work programme envisaged in Production Sharing Contracts. No reserve has been established so far.

**Gas pipeline to Kashmir**

3060. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had recently announced that a gas pipeline to Kashmir is on the cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Application for new gas connection**

3061. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints that certain dealers of LPG are not accepting applications for new gas connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against such dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers. However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that as on 01.04.2008, there is a waiting list of 25077 for release of new LPG connections with their distributors in the country. The waiting list is expected to be liquidated by 15.05.2008.